

## 2.8 Convoy Live Fire Range, YTA

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USAG-AK has proposed to construct a Convoy Live Fire Range in the Yukon Training Area. The purpose of the Convoy Live Fire Range is to simulate enemy contact on a convoy mission. There will be multiple target, or "objective," areas which will represent enemy ambush sites. When the convoy moves through the "kill zone" of an ambush site and is attacked, the convoy commander should direct his or her forces through this area with minimal casualties and then counter attack. This type of range tests the leadership and communication abilities of the convoy commander. It also allows tactical units to practice proper reactions when involved in a convoy ambush. The range will use already existing roads, Skyline Drive and Beaver Creek Road, to access the objective areas. There will be one objective area located along Skyline Drive and four objective areas located along Beaver Creek Road (Figure 11). These objective areas will be cleared of vegetation and targets constructed, lines of sight between targets will be cleared and road maintenance such as spot hardening will be ongoing. The proposed project is located on map quadrangle XBD C6 at: T3S, R5W, Sections 4 and 9; and T2S, R5E, Section 33.

### ***Survey and Field Methods***

In July and August of 2005 the proposed range was pedestrian surveyed by a crew of four to five archaeologists employed by the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML, Colorado State University).

Parallel pedestrian transects spaced at 20 meters or less were walked in all areas that were not deemed too wet or too steep ( $>40^\circ$ ) to contain cultural material. In addition to pedestrian transects, 40cm x 40cm shovel tests were excavated throughout the project area. All excavated materials were screened through  $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardware cloth. Systematic sub-surface testing was undertaken in areas determined to be high probability (e.g., lake margins, ridges, benches adjacent to steeper slopes) during initial review of the proposed project area, and as determined by the supervising archaeologist and field crew leader based on survey findings. None of the shovel tests excavated contained any cultural material.

An area larger than the proposed project footprint was surveyed and extensively shovel tested. Sites XBD-00264 and XBD-00093 were also reinvestigated (see below) as part of this project. No National Register eligible cultural resources were identified during the field inventory. Some modern trash, barbed wire and a wingtip drop tank from an F-80 or T-33 airplane (Griffin, personal communication) were also found in the project area. The wingtip drop tank was likely jettisoned in flight, as that is what they were designed to do, and no other airplane parts were found within the project area. Additionally, a large amount of disturbance as a result of previous military activities, such as clearing and bulldozing, was found within the project area, particularly within 20-50 meters of the roads.

### ***Cultural Resources***

There is one known site within the project area and one site located in the vicinity of the proposed project, both of which have been determined to be not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### XBD-00264

Latitude:

Longitude: (NAD 27)  
Determination: Not Eligible

This site consists of an isolated find of a gray chert projectile point base found on the surface next to a Remote Threat Emitter on Beaver Creek Road, on a cleared hilltop. The fragment of the projectile point base was found in two pieces, located directly adjacent to each other. The site is near the intersection of Skyline Road and Beaver Creek Road in the Yukon Training Area. UTM coordinates for the site are Zone 6, (WGS 84).



Figure 10. XBD-00264 site area, facing south

#### *Findings*

Pedestrian survey and shovel testing produced a total of only two surface artifacts, both fragments of the same projectile point base. This finding suggests that XMH-00264 is an isolated find. The site area may have been larger at one time, prior to the clearing of the hilltop where the artifact was located. The paucity of cultural material and high degree of disturbance indicates that this site does not contain additional information that is important to our understanding of the prehistory or history of the region and is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### XBD-00093

Latitude:  
Longitude: (NAD 27)  
Determination: Not Eligible

This site consists of one coarse grained beige chert flake found on the surface of Skyline Drive along a ridge top portion of the road (Holmes 1979). UTM coordinates for the site are Zone 6, (WGS 84).

#### *Findings*

This site was previously determined not eligible for the National Register in 1984. Because of the length of time that has passed since the original evaluation, and its proximity to the project area, this site was re-evaluated during investigations for this project. Pedestrian survey and shovel testing at the site location, as well as the surrounding ridge top area, did not locate any additional cultural materials. This finding

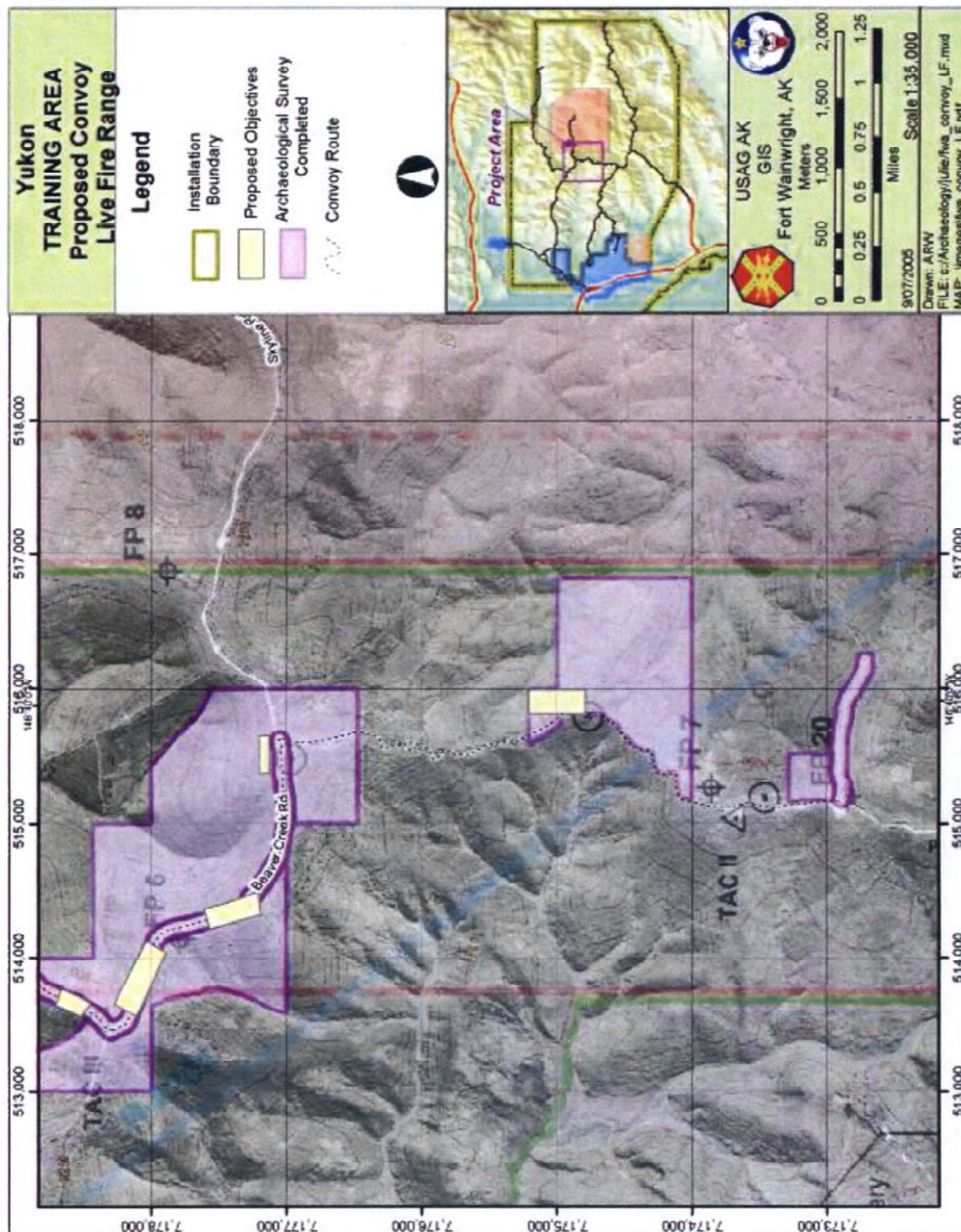


Figure 11. Proposed Convoy Range project area

suggests that XMH-00093 is an isolated find. The site area may have been larger at one time, prior to the clearing of the road and pull-off areas in the vicinity of where the artifact was located. The paucity of cultural material and high degree of disturbance indicates that this site does not contain additional information that is important to our understanding of the prehistory or history of the region and is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.



*Figure 12. XBD-00093 site area, facing east*

### **Results**

No National Register eligible cultural resources were identified within the Convoy Live Fire Range project area. The one site located within the project area, XBD-00264, has been determined not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, site XBD-00093, located in the vicinity of the project area, was re-evaluated and also determined to be not eligible for the National Register. All other previously recorded archaeological sites and historic properties in the Yukon Training Area fall outside the project area. USAG-AK has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project.